

U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Texas

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer (210) 384-7440

August 10, 2005

OKLAHOMA COUPLE SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Waco, Texas, United States District Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr., sentenced Donnie Earl Witt of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, this afternoon to 30 years in federal prison for production of child pornography. Judge Smith also fined Witt \$5,000 and ordered that he be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

On June 6, 2005, Witt pled guilty to the charge. In his plea, Witt admitted that from December 2003 to April 2004, he knowingly induced or coerced a 14-year-old female to engage in sexually explicit conduct so that he could photograph such conduct. On March 9, 2004, Witt and his codefendant, Rebecca Linton, were stopped for a traffic violation on Interstate 35 in Hill Country, Texas, by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers. As the trooper approached the defendants' vehicle, they sped away. A high-speed chase resulted that reached speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. Ultimately, the defendants were arrested after their vehicle broke down. During the arrest, the trooper discovered the child pornography inside the defendants' vehicle.

"Thirty years is not a day too long for someone who sexually abuses an innocent child," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. "Those who hurt children, like Mr. Witt did here, deserve harsh punishment."

On November 3, 2004, Judge Smith sentenced Linton to 84 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service together with the Waco Police Department's Crimes Against Children Unit. Assistant United States Attorney Greg Gloff prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

#####